

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02111 161012Z

15

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00

FAA-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SSO-00 /095 W

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P 160935Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5780

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2111

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, ETRN, IR

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR DISASTER: STERLING AIRWAYS

REF: TEHRAN 2093 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO IRANIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES THERE WERE 96 PERSONS, INCLUDING CREW, ON STERLING AIRWAYS CARAVELLE WHICH BURNED AT MEHRABAD AIRPORT ON MARCH 15. PRESENT ESTIMATE IS THAT 18 OR 19 PERISHED; 47 INJURED (SOME SERIOUSLY) AND IN TEHRAN HOSPITALS. OTHER SURVIVORS IN HOTELS. PASSENGERS DIVIDED ROUGHLY HALF AND HALF BETWEEN SWEDES AND DANES WITH ONE FRENCHMAN. NO AMERICANS ON BOARD. CREW SURVIVED. CREW HAD NOT GIVEN ANY NOTIFICATION OF DIFFICULTY PRIOR TO FIRE AND EXPLOSION.

2. MISHAP OCCURED AS PLANE WAS TAXIING INTO POSITION FOR TAKE-OFF AFTER TECHNICAL STOP FOR REFUELING ENROUTE FROM NEW DELHI TO COPENHAGEN. IRANIAN AUTHORITIES STATE THAT HYDRAULIC FLUID WAS LEAKING DURING THE TAXIING, ONE HYDRAULIC LINE BROKE, RIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND FUEL TANK ON RIGHT WING CAUGHT FIRE

AND EXPLODED. NO FIRE OR EXPLOSION ON LEFT WING, APPARENTLY DUE TO FAST REACTIONS OF MEHRABAD AIRPORT FIRE FIGHTING AUTHORITIES. INVESTIGATION PRESENTLY UNDERWAY, INCLUDING TEAM FROM STERLING AIRWAYS WHICH ARRIVED IN TEHRAN NIGHT OF MARCH 15. (ONE EMBASSY LOCAL WHO WAS PRESENT AT AIRPORT SAID HE OBSERVED THAT PILOT ALLOWED RIGHT LANDING GEAR TO GET OFF TARMAC INTO SAND OR SOFT GROUND ON EDGE OF RUNWAY WHICH CAUSED WHEEL TO COLLAPSE.)

3. ARMISH/MAAG RESPONDED QUICKLY TO IRANIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN COPING WITH DISASTER. HOSPITAL DISPATCHED AMBULANCE AND MAC TERMINAL ASSISTED WITH COMMUNICATIONS.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN02111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740337/aaaabiji.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 2093 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVIL AIR DISASTER: STERLING AIRWAYS
TAGS: CGEN, ETRN, IR, STERLING AIRWAYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005